

ABSTRACT

An interface device for interfacing
between a networkable device such as a printer and a
network, includes an isolation switch that permits
isolation of the network from the networkable
device. The interface device includes a hub and a
circuit board, with the hub constructed with plural
ports to repeat network transmissions received on
one port to all other ports. The isolation switch
is controllably operable to isolate the port to
which the network is connected from network
transmissions repeated by the hub. The isolation
switch is operated under control of the circuit
board, which implements network functionality for
the networkable device. Particularly in cases where
the networkable device is a printer, the extended
network functionality provided by the circuit board
may relate to secure printing. In such
circumstances, the isolation switch can be operated
so as to isolate the network from the printer, and
thereby permit the circuit board to transmit
decrypted print jobs in clear text to the printer
without danger of interception over the network.

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